

8. (Amended) A method for alleviating symptoms associated with an autoimmune disorder in a patient in need thereof comprising the steps of:

providing a composition comprising a fusion protein wherein said fusion protein comprises an immunoglobulin or portion thereof linked to one or more autoantigenic polypeptides or fragments thereof wherein said immunoglobulin or portion thereof is capable of binding to an Fc receptor and being endocytosed by an antigen presenting cell and said one or more autoantigenic polypeptides or fragments thereof is derived from a protein responsible for an autoimmune disease and provides at least one T cell receptor peptide agonist for presentation on the surface of said antigen presenting cell upon endocytic processing; and administering a therapeutically effective amount of said composition to said patient.

17. (Amended) A method for presenting multiple T cell receptor agonists on the surface of a professional or nonprofessional antigen presenting cell comprising the steps of:

providing a fusion protein comprising an immunoglobulin or portion thereof linked to one or more autoantigenic polypeptides or fragments thereof wherein said immunoglobulin or portion thereof is capable of binding to an Fc receptor and being endocytosed by an antigen presenting cell and said one or more autoantigenic polypeptides or fragments thereof is derived from a protein responsible for an autoimmune disease and provides at least one T cell receptor peptide agonist for presentation on the surface of said antigen presenting cell upon endocytic processing;

contacting said fusion protein with at least one Fc receptor present on a surface of a professional or nonprofessional antigen presenting cell whereby the fusion protein is internalized by the antigen presenting cell; and endocytically processing the internalized fusion protein to provide at least one T cell receptor peptide agonist wherein the provided T cell receptor agonists are presented on the surface of the antigen presenting cell.

The specific changes to the amended claims are shown on a separate set of pages attached hereto and entitled **VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**, which follows the signature page of this Amendment. On this set of pages, the insertions are double underlined while the ~~deletions are stricken through~~. Should the Examiner have any questions

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regarding this matter he is invited to telephone the undersigned so that the questions may be resolved.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 1/22/01

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